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Shahan Islam

2832/FBR

Applicant: Scott OLIVE

Serial No.: 09/462,717

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: January 10, 2000

For: SLOT MACHINE GAME WITH
IMPROVED JACKPOT FEATURE

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR
ACCELERATED EXAMINATION UNDER MPEP 708.02(VIII)**

Hon. Commissioner
of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

SHAHAN ISLAM, attorney of record avers and states:

1. I am submitting this affidavit in support of the Petition for Accelerated Examination under the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP 708.02).
2. All claims herein are directed to a single invention, or, if the Office determines that all the claims presented are not obviously directed to a single invention, applicant will make an election without traverse as a pre-requisite to the grant of special status.
3. The invention is directed to a slot machine game with improved jackpot feature which provides a random prize awarding feature to selectively provide a feature outcome on a gaming console. The console is arranged to offer the feature outcome when a game has achieved a

trigger condition and include a trigger arranged to test for a trigger condition and to initiate the feature outcome when the trigger condition occurs. The trigger condition is determined by an event having a probability related to credits bet per game on the console.

4. According to a second aspect, the invention provides a random prize awarding system associated with a network of gaming consoles. The system offers a feature outcome on a particular console when a trigger condition occurs as a result of a game being played on the respective console. The prize awarding system includes a trigger arranged to test for a trigger condition and to initiate the feature outcome on the respective console when the trigger condition occurs. The trigger condition is determined by an event having a probability related to credits bet per game on the respective console. Many other aspects of the game are disclosed in the specification.

5. A pre-examination search was made in various computerized databases. The search yielded the same results as in the prior international proceedings of this application. The following references were noted as being most relevant:

1. Australian Patent Abstract AU_A_ 53370/86
2. U.K. Patent Application 2153572 A Gaming Machine
3. Australian Patent AU _A_ 33868/89 Controlling Apparatus For Gaming Machine

6. The only real relevant one was 53370/86 which discloses a “Cashcade” system, generically known as a “Progressive” system. In Cashcade, a counter is incremented by each play of each connected machine and when it reaches an undisclosed randomly selected target number a jackpot equal to the total of the counter is awarded to the player of the machine that caused the final increment.

7. GB 2153572 discloses a game in which a first reel is spun to determine if the prizes in the main game will be increased prior to playing the main game. Although this specification discloses some sort of two game arrangement the second game is mandatory so there is no concept of a jackpot trigger.

8. AU 33868 appears to relate to an improvement over the “Cashcade” type of Progressive system where two accumulators are provided and one or other is displayed as a prize value for a predetermined outcome on a machine connected to the progressive system.


9. The present claims recite a random trigger mechanism that is not based on combinations in the outcome of the main game. The trigger is independent of main game output and has a probability of occurrence related to credits bet (turnover) on the respective machine. These features are recited in independent claims 1, 23, 43, 61, 81, 90 or 103 and are not disclosed, taught or otherwise suggested by any of the cited references.

10. Claim 80 recites a progressive system in which a trigger is provided while the player is playing a main game. The trigger takes the player into a feature game and the feature game has, as a possible prize, a prize awarded from the accumulated pool of the progressive system. The trigger may be linked to main game outcomes or may be some other random trigger such as the trigger claimed in claims 1-14. The feature game is awarded as a result of the trigger and requires no wager per se. The feature game determines if feature jackpot (as opposed to a normal main game jackpot) will be awarded and if the feature jackpot will be drawn from the progressive prize pool (either as the pool total or some sub-amount).

11. Since the remaining claims of the pending applications are direct or indirectly dependent on independent claims 1, 23, 43, 61, 81, 90 or 103, the pending claims are clearly allowable. In view of the above, the claimed invention is clearly allowable over the prior art.

Respectfully submitted,


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Dated: July 18, 2002
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statement and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.



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